

QA-116
My Lord's Gift
Queenstown vicinity
Private

18th century

The early house at My Lord's Gift was moved from its original site in the 1930's and was replaced by a modern frame Colonial Revival house. As a result, the early house is generally reported to have been demolished, and the historic name is now associated with the 20th century replacement. The early house still stands, however, though in badly deteriorated condition on an overgrown site to the southeast of its original site. After it was moved, the old dwelling underwent a number of modifications and was converted into a tenant house, only to be abandoned in the 1940's or early 1950's. After it was abandoned, the stair and some interior trim was salvaged and incorporated into a new house modeled on the original. Despite all of these changes, the early house remains more or less intact, and is of interest primarily as an example of a moderate sized 18th century dwelling with a center passage plan. Interesting details included beaded "pilasters" in the west room and the tilted false plate roof of the flanking wings.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

My Lord's Gift

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Coursey's Point Road

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Washington Brick and Terra Cotta Co.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

888 17th Street, N. W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code
D. C. 20006**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County CourthouseLiber #: CWC 94Folio #: 168

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1930's</u>

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

My Lord's Gift was an original land grant patented to Henry DeCoursey in the 17th century. It is located on a neck of land formed between the south branch of Queenstown Creek and the Chester River. There were probably several early house sites, but the location of the main house since the 18th century has been on the south bank of the Chester River. The house that presently stands on this location is relatively new, however, dating to the mid-1930's. At that time, the early house was moved from the original site to its present location on the south side of the road leading down to Queenstown Creek. It is widely believed that the old house is no longer standing, perhaps in part due to Henry Forman's comment in Maryland Architecture (published in 1968), that My Lord's Gift was destroyed. In view of the present condition of the house, Forman's evaluation was reasonably accurate. In an earlier work, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, Forman illustrated a floor plan and restored front elevation of My Lord's Gift. Although the basic form and plan of the main house have remained

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

intact since Forman's study was published in 1934, several details are noted which have long since disappeared.

At present, the early house consists of a story-and-a-half frame structure five bays long and one room deep, with flush brick stove chimneys on each gable end. Smaller story-and-a-half frame wings extend from the east and west gables, and one story frame porches extend across the north facade of each wing. The house has been vacant for many years, and is in a deteriorated state of preservation.

There is a door in the center bay on each facade, flanked by pairs of large six-over-six windows. There are two dormer windows on each facade, located between the first and second bay and the fourth and fifth bay. The doors and most window sash are missing. The exterior of the building is covered with wood shingles applied over earlier plain horizontal weatherboards. A plain box cornice is carried across both facades. On the north side there is one section of crown mold, but this has apparently been installed upside down, while the remainder of the cornice is finished with a plain angled board to serve as the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

crown mold. The dormers retain some early trim, as well as the early beaded flush siding in the peak of each dormer. The gables are almost entirely covered by the flanking wings, and are not interrupted by windows.

The interior of the house has gone through considerable alterations and has had virtually all of the original detail removed. The floor plan in the main house remains intact, however, and consists of a center hall flanked by a single room on each side. The stair was located in the north end of the hall, but has been removed and is now incorporated into a modern house constructed on nearby Coursey's Point in the 1950's. The door at the north end of the hall, below the stair, is offset to the west, while the south door was centered on the hall. The flanking parlours are now quite bare, with stove chimneys located where the fireplaces were, and plain plaster walls with plain trim. These rooms were probably once quite remarkable. Forman describes both rooms as being paneled, and although that implies all four walls in each room, only the gable walls appear to have had paneling. Also surviving are a section

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

of the original chairrail, several pieces of baseboard, and a pair of plain "pilasters" in the west room. All of this detail, as well as the original window frames, have been covered up by a late alteration. It is unclear when this occurred, but the major task involved constructing new stud and plaster walls inside the original walls, thus encasing the earlier walls. Wherever the newer plaster has fallen, it is possible to see the earlier walls, baseboard, and chairrail still intact. The baseboard has an ovolo molding along the top edge, while the chairrail consists of a fascia board with a similar molding on both the top and bottom edge. A ghost in the paint on the face of the fascia indicates that a strip of molding was applied to the face, forming a simplified bollection mold chairrail. The pilasters are especially curious. They are located at the center of the north and south walls of the west room, and run from floor to ceiling. They are built-up, using three pieces of one-inch stock, and have full 3/4 beads on both corners. They do not appear to serve a structural purpose and are painted the same soft blue as the chairrail and baseboard.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

Very little else remains of the early interior. All of the flooring has been stripped out, and the second floor is completely devoid of detail, except for one piece of baseboard in the east room. The second floor plan is identical to the first.

Both the paneling and the stairway were salvaged from the house, as well as several interior doors and both exterior doors. The stairway and doors were used in a house built on nearby Coursey's Point in the 1950's. This house bears a distinct resemblance to My Lord's Gift, and was clearly meant to be a reasonably accurate reproduction of the old house. The paneling has not yet been located.

The stair has a closed string carriage, with a large triangular raised panel below. The newel is square in section, with chamfered edges and lambs-tongue stops. The ballusters are also square, with a molded railing. Small patches of paint along the edge of the raised panel are the same color of blue as the trim that remains in the old house.

The front and rear doors have raised paneling on the exterior face, but the interior face is comprised of vertical beaded boards.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

Because of the derelict condition of the house and the absence of the flooring, it is possible to see most of the original framing. The sills are hewn, while the joists are hewn and pit sawn and are notched into the sills. The walls are constructed of standard heavy timber framing. The roof is of common rafter construction, at a pitch of 50 degrees. The rafters are secured at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint, and rest on a heavy 4 x 4 false plate. This is supported by the second floor joists, which are notched over the wall top plate. Each rafter pair is further reinforced by a collar beam that also serves as a second floor ceiling joist. These are half-dovetailed and pegged into the rafters. The second floor joists may be gang-sawn, as they have very bold, widely spaced but somewhat irregular saw marks on all four sides.

The two flanking wings are also frame, two bays wide and one-and-one-half stories high. They are the same width as the main house, but are approximately two feet lower at the ridge.

At present, the east wing has a door in the west bay on the north facade with a six-over-six window

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

immediately to the left of the door. On the gable wall there is a six-over-six window at the extreme north end of the wall and an exterior door at the extreme south end. A six-over-six window is approximately centered on the south wall. Single six-over-six gable roof dormers are located near the center of each facade on the second floor.

The west wing is quite similar, with a door in the extreme west bay on both facades, and one six-over-six window immediately to the east of each door. A single six-over-six window in the center of the west gable is the only opening on that wall. One dormer window on each facade provides light for the second floor.

Despite a number of differences between the two wings, it would appear that they are actually a single building that has been cut in two. The interior framing has been heavily altered and to a large degree replaced. The floor joists below the first floor of the east wing and all of the first floor studs appear to be later, while the sills, plates, and roof construction appear to be original. The second floor joists are hewn on all four sides in the east wing and

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

are sawn in the west wing, however, so if they were at one time the same building it must be assumed that the alterations were truly extensive. The most convincing piece of evidence is found in the construction of the roof. The rafters are riven and laid "flat", that is they are wider than they are deep. More important, they are notched over a heavy, tilted false plate. Both of these features are generally associated with relatively early buildings, and surviving examples are extremely rare in Queen Anne's County. The plates of the west wing have clearly been cut, and there seems little doubt that the basic frame of these two wings once formed a single building approximately 26 feet long by 20 feet wide. Evidently they have been almost entirely rebuilt below the first floor top plate.

Two early photographs of the house have been located. These are in the possession of the Faulkner family, who lived at My Lord's Gift from 1908 until 1928. One of these photographs shows a 3/4 view of the house, with several interesting features clearly visible. The most prominent of these is a two story frame wing with a pitched roof that projects from

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

the center of the facade, bearing a striking resemblance to an early porch or stair tower. This wing was apparently demolished when the house was moved, and no framing evidence can be found to suggest that it was original. It must be assumed, therefore, that this was not an early feature of the house.

The other detail of interest is the wing which projects from one gable end of the main house. This appears to be identical to the detached kitchen illustrated by Forman, and clearly reinforced the supposition that the early kitchen was cut in two when the house was moved in the 1930's, and was converted into smaller flanking wings.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early house at My Lord's Gift was moved from its original site in the 1930's and was replaced by a modern frame Colonial Revival house. As a result the early house is generally reported to have been demolished, and the historic name is now associated with the 20th century house. The early house still stands, however, though in badly deteriorated condition on an overgrown site to the southeast of the new house. After it was moved, the old dwelling underwent a number of modifications and was converted into a tenant house, only to be abandoned in the 1940's or early 1950's. After it was abandoned, the stair and some interior trim was salvaged and incorporated into a new house modeled on the original. Despite all of these changes, the early house remains more or less intact, and is of interest primarily as an example of a moderate-size 18th century dwelling with a center passage plan. The framing details

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

are all standard, but several unusual features survive from the original interior. These were found buried behind later plaster walls in the west room, and include simple beaded "pilasters" on the side walls and part of a simplified bollection mold chairrail.

Of equal importance to the main house are the flanking wings. These apparently comprised a single building originally, and probably served as a single wing. When the house was moved, the old wing was sawed in half and used to form the present flanking wings. The roof is one of the few recorded examples in Queen Anne's County having a tilted false plate with the rafters laid "flat" and notched over the plate. The lower structure is somewhat unusual on first inspection, with partially exposed wall posts and plates, but closer inspection shows that these are later insertions made up of one-inch planks, and are not part of the original frame.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

12/20/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Maryland Gardens and Houses. Baltimore, 1938.

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country

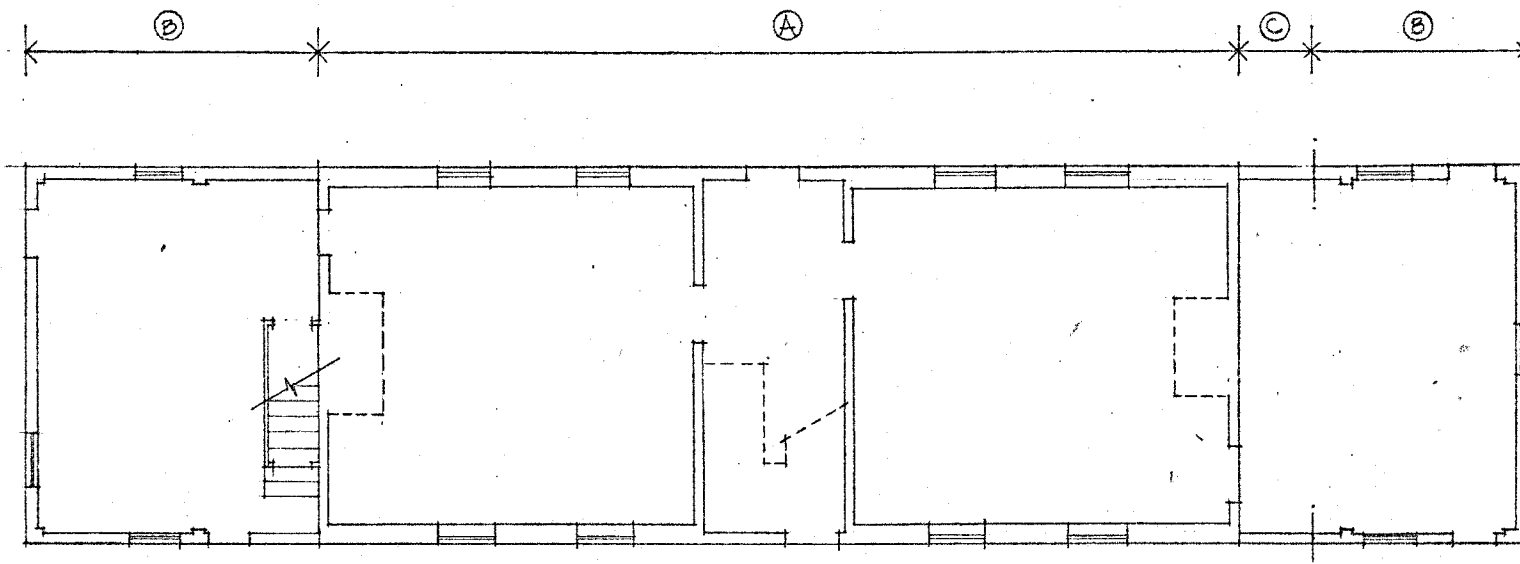
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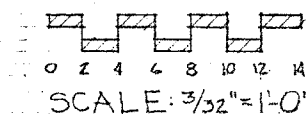
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- ① 1/2 STORY DWELLING, 18th C. FRAMING & DETAILS.
- ② FLANKING ONE-STORY WINGS WERE PROBABLY
ORIGINALLY ONE BUILDING. 18th C. FRAMING
AND TILTED FALSE PLATES.
- ③ FRAME IN-FILL, C. 1930'S.



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-116

MY LORD'S GIFT
QUEENSTOWN, MARYLAND

OCTOBER 20, 1978.





QA-116 My hood's Gift
C. 1910-1920. Copy of
photo in possession of
Mr. Fulkner, on O'tour
whose family lived in house
from C. 1900-1920's.



QA-116

My Lord's Gift

041

1939

State Roads Commission



QA-116

My Lord's Gift

041

1939

State Roads Commission



"LORD'S GIFT"

1050 ACRES.

GRANTED TO HENRY COURSEY 1658
1000 ACRES BY ORDER OF LORD
BALTIMORE FOR "CONSPICUOUS FAITH-
FULNESS TO HIM DURING THE LATE
CONTEST" (THE UPRISING OF 1652 BY
RICHARD BENNETT AND WILLIAM
CLAIBORNE). THE 50 ACRES WERE FOR
TRANSPORTING HIMSELF INTO THE
COLONY. THIS IS THE TRACT KNOWN
AS THE "THUMB GRANT" OF LEGEND-
ARY ORIGIN.

STATE ROAD COMMISSION

QA-116

My Lord's Gift

Historical Marker

1939

State Roads Commission



QA-116 My hood's gift

Queentown vic.

OK 1 1979



QA-116 My words gift
Greentown vic.
ORV 1979



QA-116 My hord's gift
Queinstown vic.

OK v 1979

Note - later walls framed in
c. 1930's concealing orig
walls and trim. Note the
beaded plaster and orig
chairrail betw the windows



OA-116 My hord's gift

Queenstown vic.

ORV 1979

UF →

Beaded "plaster", w/ later wall
framed in to hide early
work.



QA-116 My hords gift
Queentown vic.

ORV 1979